Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—As matters stand at present, unless the Road Board alters its programme we have to wait.

Service connection—Maharaja's Hospital, Cochin.

220. Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri Town-South).*—(a) whether Alwaye water is supplied for the operation theatre in the Maharaja's Hospital, Cochin; if not, will the Government give pipe connection to the operation theatre immediately;

(b) how many Alwaye water pipe taps are there in the above said hospital and whether they are open at all times; if not, will the Government make arrangements to keep the pipes open at all times?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—(a) Alwaye water is not connected to the operation theatre and even if it is done, it is doubtful if water will be available upstairs on account of the heavy draw off at the public taps. A satisfactory service to the theatre can be assured, when the direct supply line to Mattancheri across the back-water begins to function.

(b) There are three taps in the hospital and they can be worked like the other taps in the town.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder *(Jews-Special).*—May I know when the direct supply of Alwaye water will begin to function?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—I expect it will be complete in about 2 months.

Births and Deaths—Compulsory Registration of.

221. Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—Will the Government be pleased to make registration of births and deaths compulsory in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—Not at present.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—May I know the reason, please?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—The matter was considered by the Government and it was decided that for a period of 3 years it may not be made compulsory in the small villages. The main villages have got compulsory system.

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